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Mystery Remains In The Bay Of Pigs Story

Two fresh observations from men deeply involved in the invasion of Cuba last April serve as reminders to outsiders that the full, fascinating story of that ill-fated venture has not yet been told.

President Miguel Ydigoras of Guatemala added one interesting theory when he declared that the attack upon Fidel Castro's government was not a fiasco at all. It really was a "great victory," he contended, because it frightened Castro so much that "his war-like activities outside Cuba ceased since that date."

Ydigoras had a ready rejoinder for U.S. citizens who would scoff at this theory. North Americans, he observed, became "hysterical, as happens to them when they suffer a setback." So they couldn't recognize a true victory when they saw one.

Perhaps the Ydigoras theory might be amended somewhat and thereby gain more acceptance. Shortly after the Cuban fiasco, high U.S. officials speculated that the affair might have been an asset insofar as it demonstrated to Latin America that communism was a serious and established power in this hemisphere and that the familiar game of Yankee-baiting thus was becoming a questionable luxury. Perhaps these officials, too, were whistling through the graveyard. But Ydigoras at least is correct in noting that Castro's expansion has become less vocal of late—if no less menacing.

The most intriguing part of his speech, however, was this statement by Ydigoras: "President Kennedy, with the gesture of a great statesman, shouldered the responsibility" (for the invasion). But President Kennedy still has the responsibility of a sequel neither cleared up nor fulfilled: The

commitment made to Guatemala.

What was this commitment? Ydigoras didn't explain, except to add: "The Bay of Pigs was victory, not a defeat, and he who begins under such auspices must go on with the great task of de-communizing that part of the American territory. There are signed commitments in South America."

The other intriguing statement came from Allen W. Dulles, who retired recently as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Dulles said in a broadcast that the invasion of Cuba had to be staged about when it was or risk even greater danger from the growing Castro air force. He reiterated previous statements that C.I.A. was not surprised by the military power shown by the Cuban government, nor by the failure of Cubans to rise in revolt against Castro.

"There is quite a popular misapprehension," Dulles said, "that it was felt there would be a spontaneous uprising. We have never contemplated that. In the days of the war I worked a great deal with the French underground. The last thing we wanted was spontaneous uprisings, to be slaughtered by the Nazi troops. In the same way we were not looking for a spontaneous uprising, but for other developments."

What were the "other developments" which apparently never came to pass? Dulles didn't say.

But the combination of cryptic statements suggests that some interesting chapters of the Bay of Pigs story remain yet to be told some day. Fidel Castro may be as curious as anyone as to what those chapters will say.—B. J.

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